

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 1-26 is noted with appreciation.

Claim 1 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that it is "unclear what is the extension and what is meant by the phrase 'surface of the workpiece which extension is greater than' and further "the phrase 'a desired size of an extension oriented in a longitudinal direction' is not positively recited. Claim 1 has been amended consistent with the specification to recite that "[t]he spatially limited eddy current field has a greatest extension along a longitudinal direction of a surface of the workpiece, the greatest extension of the current field being greater than a maximum extension of the softzone area along the longitudinal direction of the surface of the workpiece. See paragraph [0011] of the Second Substitute Specification.

Claims 2-26 have been further edited to improve their form for reexamination and allowance.

Finally, the specification has been further revised to improve its form for reexamination and allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is submitted that each of the claims in the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (785.46148X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

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